

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified) (REV 11-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 214277US67PCT
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 10/009191
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/FR00/01554	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 7 June 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 8 June 1999		
TITLE OF INVENTION PROCESS AND SYSTEM FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TWO TELEPHONE SETS VIA A COMPUTER NETWORK OF THE INTERNET TYPE				
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US TEBÉKA Henry				
<p>Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below. 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)). 11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409). 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210). <p>Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 19. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825. 20. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 21. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 22. <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail 23. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <p>Request for Consideration of Documents Cited in International Search Report Request for Priority/Drawings (1 sheet) PCT/IB/308</p>				

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN) SEE 37 CFR 10/009191	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/FR00/01554	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 214277US67PCT																
24. The following fees are submitted:		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY																
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1040.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$890.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$740.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$710.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00 																		
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Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).		<input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 \$130.00																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">CLAIMS</th> <th style="width: 25%;">NUMBER FILED</th> <th style="width: 25%;">NUMBER EXTRA</th> <th style="width: 25%;">RATE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total claims</td> <td>15 - 20 =</td> <td>0</td> <td>x \$18.00 \$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent claims</td> <td>3 - 3 =</td> <td>0</td> <td>x \$84.00 \$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable).</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> \$0.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	Total claims	15 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00 \$0.00	Independent claims	3 - 3 =	0	x \$84.00 \$0.00	Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable).			<input type="checkbox"/> \$0.00	
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$1,020.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0030 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038. 																		
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.																		
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:																		
 22850																		
 SIGNATURE Michael R. Casey NAME 40,294 REGISTRATION NUMBER 12/10/01 DATE																		

10/009191

Attorney Docket No. 214277US67 PCT

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 10 DEC 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Henry TEBEKA

SERIAL NO. New PCT Application based
on PCT/FR00/01554

FILED: Herewith

FOR: PROCESS AND SYSTEM FOR COMMUNICATION
BETWEEN TWO TELEPHONE SETS VIA A
COMPUTER NETWORK OF THE INTERNET TYPE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title of the application as follows:¹

--COMMUNICATION METHOD AND SYSTEM BETWEEN TWO TELEPHONE
HANDSETS VIA A COMPUTERISED NETWORK SUCH AS INTERNET--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-12 and substitute therefor new Claims 13-27.

13. (New) A method for communicating between at least two users, with each user having a telephone device in a telephone network, and with each telephone device being connected, via a local loop in the telephone network, to a telephone center managed by a telecommunications operator with which the user has taken a subscription, comprising:

¹The changes to the title are shown using underlining and bracketing in the attachment hereto.

establishing a link, via a computer communication network, between the telephone centers,

establishing a communication, via the telephone network, between both users, with the users;

requesting the telephone centers to switch the communication, from the telephone network to the computer communication network, wherein a cost of the communication equals:

a cost of a local call to the corresponding telephone center plus a fraction of a cost of subscription to the computer communication network.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the requesting step comprises using at least one key on a keypad of the telephone device.

15. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of establishing comprises establishing a permanent Internet connection.

16. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the link is shared between several subscribers.

17. (New) A system for communicating between at least two users, with each user having a telephone device in a telephone network, and each telephone device being connected, via a local loop in the telephone network, to a telephone center managed by a telecommunications operator with which the user has taken a subscription, the system comprising:

a switching device to establish a link between telephone centers, via a computer communication network;

a communication device to establish a communication, via the telephone network, between the two users; and

a control device for switching communication from the telephone network to the computer communication network wherein a cost of the communication equals:

a cost of a local call to the corresponding telephone center plus a fraction of the cost of the subscription to the computer communication network.

18. (New) The system according to claim 17, wherein the control device comprises:
at least one key on a keypad to generate a switching signal.

19. (New) The system according to claim 17, wherein the computer communication
network comprises a permanent link.

20. (New) The system according to claim 17, wherein the switching device is shared
between several subscribers.

21. (New) A telephone center having at least one IP address in a computer
communication network, the telephone center comprising:

an exchange device to communicate at least one IP address to or from at least
one other telephone center utilizing

- (1) at least one of a telephone network and
- (2) a server; and

a switching device to establish a link with one of the at least one other
telephone center, via a computer communication network utilizing an IP address of the one of
the at least one other telephone center.

22. (New) The telephone center according to claim 21, wherein the link is a
permanent link.

23. (New) The telephone center according to claim 21, further comprising a remotely
located keypad having at least one key for controlling the switching device to switch from a
communication in the telephone network to a communication in the computer communication
network.

24. (New) The telephone center according to claim 20, wherein the switching device
is shared between several subscribers.

25. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the computer communication
network comprises the Internet.

26. (New) The system according to claim 17, wherein the computer communication network comprises the Internet.

27. (New) The telephone center according to claim 21, wherein the computer communication network comprises the Internet.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 13-27 are currently pending in this application and are in condition for examination on the merits. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-Up Copy

Serial No: New Application
Preliminary Amendment Filed on:

12-10-2001

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title of the application as follows:

--COMMUNICATION METHOD [PROCESS] AND SYSTEM [FOR
COMMUNICATION] BETWEEN TWO TELEPHONE [SETS] HANDSETS VIA A
[COMPUTER] COMPUTERISED NETWORK [OF THE] SUCH AS INTERNET [TYPE]--

IN THE CLAIMS

1-12. Canceled

13-27. New

11/PLTS

PROCESS AND SYSTEM FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TWO
TELEPHONE SETS VIA A COMPUTER NETWORK OF THE INTERNET

TYPE

This invention relates to a process and a system for communication via a computer network of the Internet type. It also concerns a centre, and a telephone handset, notably for implementation of a process of this
5 kind or for the construction of such a system.

The cost of the communications made through a network of the Internet type is particularly low. Unlike traditional telephone communications, the pricing is independent of the distance and, generally, also
10 independent of the duration of the communication.

However, networks of the Internet type are rarely used for telephony (or video telephony) since the cost of the equipment allowing telephony (or video telephony) using this network are dissuasive. In addition, assembly
15 of this equipment and use of it are relatively complex.

Until now, the most advantageous solution for the subscriber consists in fitting an interface or switching device which is associated with their telephone set and which allows the user of the telephone network to be
20 linked to the Internet network without using a computer. A device of this kind allows another user equipped with a device of the same kind to be telephoned through the Internet instead of using telephone lines. To this end,
the subscriber dials, on their telephone set, the
25 telephone number of the called party, so as to reach them

by the switched telephone network, and signals to their interface device that they are seeking a communication via the Internet network. The interface devices of the calling party and the called party thus communicate 5 through the telephone network and exchange the necessary information to reach one another, after this, on the Internet network, in an automatic or semi-automatic fashion.

An interface device of this kind is disclosed, for 10 example, in the international patent application published as number WO98/13986.

A long-distance communication made with such a device implies that both the calling party and the called party buys such a device. The cost of the communication 15 itself is, for the calling party, the sum of the minimum cost of establishing a long-distance telephone communication, the cost of a local communication and a fraction of the cost of their subscription to the Internet. For the called party, the cost is that of a 20 local telephone communication, to which is also added a fraction of their Internet subscription.

The invention seeks to reduce significantly the cost of telephony (or video telephony) by the Internet.

The invention thus relates to a process for 25 communicating between at least two users via a computer communication network, notably of the Internet type, in which each user has a telephone set in the telephone network, notably of the switched network, and each set is connected, via a local loop of the telephone network,

notably the switched network, to a telephone centre managed by a telecommunications operator with which the user has taken a subscription.

This process is characterised in that it comprises 5 the stages consisting in,

firstly, establishing a link, via the computer communication network, notably of the Internet type, between the telephone centres and,

secondly, establishing a communication, via the 10 telephone network, between both users, who can then decide either to continue the communication on the telephone network, or ask the telephone centres to switch the communication, through the said link, on to the computer communication network.

15 Thus, when the users choose the second option, i.e. to switch the communication to the computer network, the cost of the communication is, for each user, the price of a local call and a fraction of the price of the subscription to the computer network, notably the 20 Internet, which will be invoiced to them by the telecommunication operators.

With a process of this kind, it will usually be in the users interests to make their communication on the telephone network when the call is of the local type. 25 Conversely, for most long distance calls, it will be in their interests to switch the communication to the computer network.

It will also be noted that this process requires no special equipment for the users. On the other hand,

operators of local loops must be equipped with devices allowing switching to the computer network. Such a device is, for example, of the type of that disclosed in international application WO98/13986 mentioned above, 5 i.e. allowing a link to be established via the computer network with another device of the same kind, after a telephone communication between these devices.

The centres' link to the computer network may moreover be permanent. A permanent computer link may 10 also be established between the various centres.

To allow each user to be able easily to request the computer link through the telephone centre to which they are attached, it is planned in a preferred embodiment that the telephone device (set) of the user should have 15 at least one key to control switching of the communication from the telephone network to the computer link.

The link to the Internet network of each telephone centre in a local loop may be shared between several 20 subscribers, with each subscriber having, for example, an identification code, by means of which they are recognised as being entitled to use switching to the Internet network. This code may be simply their telephone number.

25 It should be noted that, in the above, and in what follows, the telephone (or video telephone) link must be understood in the general sense as covering, firstly, a wire telephone link, and also a radio (for example GSM type) or analog link.

The invention also relates to a system of communication between at least two users, via a computer network, notably of the Internet type, in which each user has a telephone set in a telephone network, notably a 5 switched network, which is connected, via a local loop, to a telephone centre managed by a telecommunication operator with which the user has taken a subscription.

This system is characterised in that,

10 firstly, each of the telephone centres contains a switching device to establish a link to the other telephone centre via the computer network and,

15 secondly, the system also includes a device to establish communications, via the switched telephone network, between the two users, and a device for control (or command) allowing the users either to continue the communication on the switched network, or to activate, or cause to be activated, the switching devices to switch the communication, via the computer link, to the computer communication network, notably of the Internet type.

20 In an implementation, the control device allowing users to activate the switching devices of the telephone centres includes at least one key, notably in the keypad, of the telephone device, and a device generating a signal associated with this key.

25 The link from the telephone centres via the computer network should preferably be permanent.

The switching device allowing a link from the telephone centre to the computer network to be established is, for example, shared between several

subscribers, each of the latter being, in an implementation, identified by a code.

According to another provision of the invention, which may be used independently of those defined above, 5 the invention relates to a telephone centre which is characterised in that it includes at least one IP (Internet Protocol) address in a computer communication network, notably of the Internet type, and in that the telephone centre includes:

10 exchange means to communicate its IP address to at least one other telephone centre and/or receive the IP address from another telephone centre, with this communication and/or reception being able to be made either directly, for example via the telephone network, 15 notably the switched network, or indirectly, for example via a specific server, and

20 a switching device to establish a link with another telephone centre, via a computer network, notably of the Internet type, at the IP address of this other telephone centre.

Such a telephone centre constitutes a basic element allowing, by particularly simple means, a network combining the advantages of telephone and computer networks to be combined, and allowing telephone 25 communications to be passed through the Internet or analog network.

The telephone centre preferably includes means whereby its link with the Internet network can be permanent.

In an embodiment, the telephone centre is such that the switching device may be activated remotely by the users using at least one key, for example in the keypad, of the telephone device.

5 It is preferable if the telephone centre is such that the switching device is shared between several subscribers.

Other characteristics and advantages of the invention will become clear with the description of some of its embodiments, the latter being made in reference to the sole figure which represents a system in accordance with the invention.

System 10 represented in the figure comprises, firstly, a telephone network 12, such as a switched telephone network, and secondly a computer network 14, for example of the Internet type.

Telephone network 10 includes, in traditional fashion, a collection of nodes, or local loops, 16₁, 16₂, 16_n, constituting access nodes of subscribers to this network 10.

Each loop 16_i includes a telephone centre 18_i allowing telephone communications to be directed either to a subscriber in the same local loop, or to a subscriber in another local loop. In addition, in each centre 18_i a switching (or interface) device 20_i is associated allowing the loop to be linked to the Internet network 14 . This link is made, for example, through service providers 22_i .

In this embodiment, the switching device 20_i is permanently linked to the network 14.

Each of the devices 20_i contains an IP address, such that the corresponding telephone centre (and thus the 5 local loop) can be connected simply to the other interface (or switching) devices of the same kind in the network.

This IP address of each interface device may be sent directly, by the telephone network 10, to the switching 10 devices of the other telephone centres.

Alternatively, the connection between the switching devices is made through a specific server 24 in network 14 which contains all the IP addresses of the switching devices of the telephone centres. In other words, server 15 24 allows communications to be established, via network 14, between telephone centres.

Thus, in each of the loops, 16_i, the switching device 20_i allows communications established by the telephone network 10 to be transferred to the Internet 20 network 14.

A telephone communication is switched to the Internet network 14, from the calling side, using a command signal from set 26_i of this calling subscriber. To this end, the subscriber set includes a specific key 25 (not shown). Alternatively, a combination of keys allows the switching command signal to be emitted.

On the side of the called party, switching to the network 14 of the switching device in the corresponding telephone centre is achieved under the command of a

specific signal received via Internet network 14. Alternatively, this switching is achieved by activating a key, or several keys, in the telephone set 26_i of the called party.

5 In the above, it is supposed that each switching device 20_i is associated with all the subscribers of the corresponding local loop 16_i. Alternatively, loop 16_i contains a number of switching devices, with a limited number of users being allocated to each of these devices.

10 In an embodiment the possibility of making telephone communications via the Internet network 14 constitutes a non-obligatory option. In this case the corresponding switching device 20_i may be activated only if the user has taken a subscription. In this example the switching 15 device verifies that the user has subscribed the appropriate subscription, either by the fact that it contains in memory the numbers of authorised subscribers, or because the command signal emitted by set 26_i contains a specific authorisation code for access to Internet 20 network 14.

Operation is as follows:

When a subscriber in telephone network 10 having taken a subscription to switching to the Internet network 14 wishes to call a distant subscriber having taken the 25 same type of subscription, they dial, on their set 26_i, the telephone number of the telephone device 26_j, which puts telephone centres 18₁ and 18_n in communication through network 10. If they do not press the specific key (or keys) mentioned above, the conversation takes

place through the telephone network 10. Conversely, if they press the corresponding key(s), the switching device 20_i is activated and establishes a link through the Internet network 14, with corresponding device 20_n in loop 16_n. As indicated above, switching device 20_n in telephone centre 18_n (loop 16_n) is activated either automatically by the signal sent via the Internet network, or by pressing a corresponding key in the set 26_i of the called party.

10 Since the switching devices are permanently linked to network 14, there is no delay to establish the communication.

15 In addition, telephone communications established in this manner may be particularly inexpensive for the users. The latter do not have to purchase a specific device associated with their telephone set. In addition, it is not necessary that they have taken a personal subscription to the Internet network.

20 This subscription to the Internet network is invoiced by the operator of network 10. But it is clear that the cost for the user may be considerably lower than the individual subscription since the operator of network 10 has its own subscription which it shares between the users.

25 For the operator of the telephone network, the investment is moderate. The cost of the switching device(s) represents only a small fraction of the cost of the telephone centre.

CLAIMS

1. A process for communication between at least two users, via a computer communication network (14), notably of the Internet type, with each user having a telephone device (26_i, 26_j) in a telephone network (12), 5 and with each telephone device being connected, via a local loop (16₁, 16₂, ..., 16_n) in the telephone network, to a telephone centre (18₁, 18₂, ..., 18_n) managed by a telecommunications operator with which the user has taken a subscription,

10 the said process being characterised in that it contains the following stages:

- establishing a link, via the said computer communication network (14), notably of the Internet type, between the said telephone centres,

15 - establishing a communication, via the telephone network (12), between both users, with the said users being able to decide by joint agreement:

* either to continue the communication on the telephone network,

20 * or to ask the telephone centres to switch the communication, via the said link, to the said computer communication network, notably of the Internet type,

such that in the event that the users choose this second option, the cost of the communication equals:

25 - the cost of the local call plus

- the fraction of the cost of subscription to the computer communication network, notably of the

Internet type, invoiced to them by the telecommunications operators.

2. A process according to claim 1, characterised in that, in order to request the telephone centres to switch 5 the communication, via the said link, to the said computer communication network, notably of the Internet type,

- each user uses at least one key in the keypad of the telephone device.

10 3. A process as claimed in either of claims 1 or 2, characterised in that the said link is established in permanent fashion with the said computer communication network, notably of the Internet type.

15 4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the said link to the computer communication network is shared between several subscribers.

20 5. A system (10) for communication between at least two users, via a computer communication network (14) of the Internet type, with each user having a telephone 25 device in the telephone network (12), and each telephone device being connected, via a local loop (16₁, 16₂, ..., 16_n) in the telephone network, to a telephone centre (18₁, 18₂, ..., 18_n) managed by a telecommunications operator with which the user has taken a subscription.

the said system being characterised in that each of the said telephone centres contains:

- a switching device (20₁, 20₂, ..., 20_n) to establish a link to the other telephone centre, via the

said computer communication network notably of the Internet type,

where the said system also contains:

5 - a communication device to establish a communication, via the telephone network, between the two users,

- a control device allowing the said users:

* either to continue the communication on the telephone network,

10 * or to activate the said communication devices to switch the communication, via the said link, to the said computer communication network, notably of the Internet type,

such that, in the event that the users choose this 15 second option, the cost of the communication equals:

- the cost of the local call plus
- the fraction of the cost of the subscription to the computer communication network notably of the Internet type invoiced to them by the telecommunication 20 operators.

6. A system according to claim 5 characterised in that the control device allowing the said users to activate the said switching devices contains at least one key in the keypad of the telephone device and a device to generate a signal associated with this key.

7. A system as claimed in either of claims 5 or 6 characterised in that the said link is established in permanent fashion with the computer network.

8. A system as claimed in any of claims 5 to 7 characterised in that the said switching device is shared between several subscribers.

9. A telephone centre intended for implementation 5 of the process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 or of the system as claimed in any of claims 5 to 8;

where the said telephone centre ($18_1, 18_2, \dots, 18_n$) has at least one IP address in a computer communication network (14) notably of the Internet type;

10 where the said telephone centre is characterised in that it includes:

- an exchange device to communicate to at least one other telephone centre and/or receive from another telephone centre at least one IP address,

15 * directly, notably via the telephone network, or

* indirectly, notably via a specific server (24), and

20 - a switching device ($20_1, 20_2, \dots, 20_n$) to establish a link with another telephone centre, via a computer communication network (14) notably of the Internet type, to the IP address of this other telephone centre.

10. A telephone centre according to claim 9 25 characterised in that the said link is established in permanent fashion with the computer network.

11. A telephone centre as claimed in any of claims 8 to 10 characterised in that the said switching devices may be activated remotely by the users by means of at

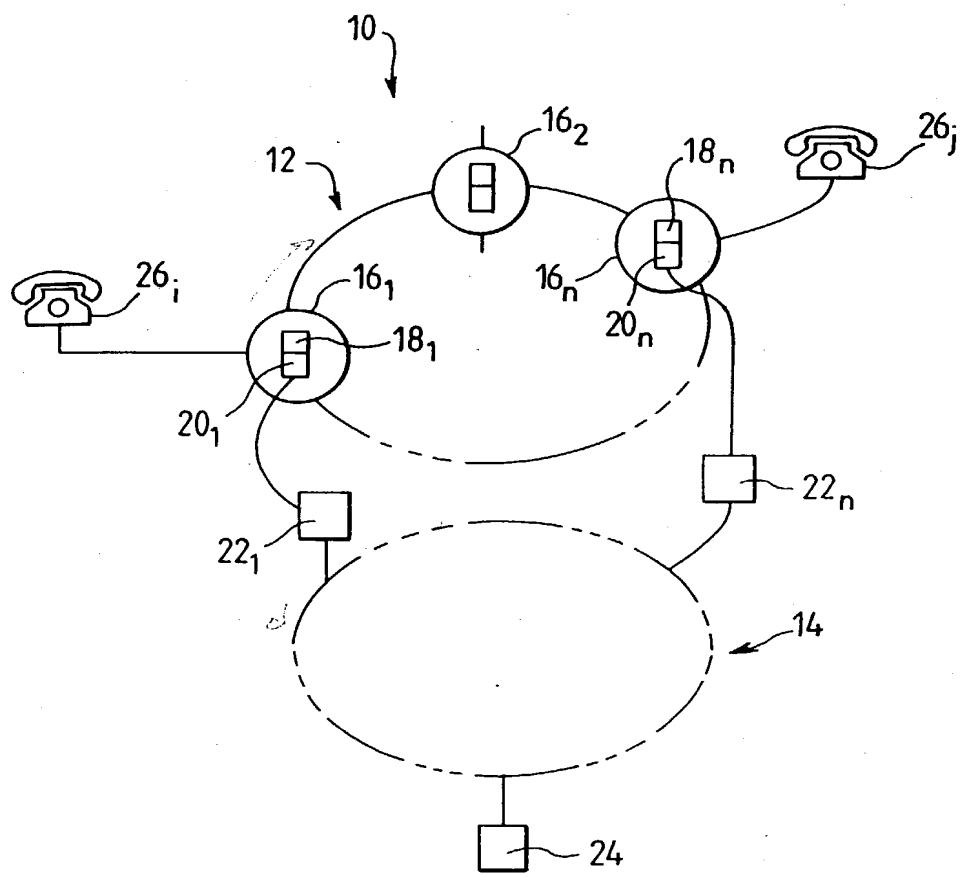
least one key in the keypad of the telephone device and the signal associated with the key,

such that the users may, by activating the said switching devices, switch a communication in the 5 telephone network to a computer communication network of the Internet type.

12. A telephone centre as claimed in any of claims 8 to 11 characterised in that the said switching device is shared between several subscribers.

Abstract

The invention concerns a communication method between at least two users, via a computerised communication network (14), in particular of the Internet type, each user being provided with a telephone (26i, 26j) of a telephone network (12), each telephone being connected, via a local loop (161, 162,...,16n) of the telephone network, to a call centre (181, 182,..., 18n) managed by a telecommunication operator. Said method comprises steps which consist in establishing a link, via said Internet-type telephone network, between said call centres and establishing a communication, via the telephone network (12), between the two users. The users can then decide to request the call centres to switch the communication onto said Internet-type network.



214277US67PCT

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application
Déclaration et Pouvoirs pour Demande de Brevet
French Language Declaration

En tant l'inventeur nommé ci-après, je déclare par le présent acte que:

Mon domicile, mon adresse postale et ma nationalité sont ceux figurant ci-dessous à côté de mon nom.

Je crois être le premier inventeur original et unique (si un seul nom est mentionné ci-dessous), ou l'un des premiers co-inventeurs originaux (si plusieurs noms sont mentionnés ci-dessous) de l'objet revendiqué, pour lequel une demande de brevet a été déposée concernant l'invention intitulée

et dont la description est fournie ci-joint à moins

ci-joint

a été déposée le _____

sous le numéro de demande des Etats-Unis ou le numéro de demande international PCT

et modifiée le

_____ (le cas échéant).

Je déclare par le présent acte avoir passé en revue et compris le contenu de la description ci-dessus, revendications comprises, telles que modifiées par toute modification dont il aura été fait référence ci-dessus.

Je reconnais devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, § 1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations.

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**COMMUNICATION METHOD AND SYSTEM BETWEEN
 TWO TELEPHONE HANDSETS VIA A COMPUTERISED
 NETWORK SUCH AS INTERNET (as amended)**

the specification of which

is attached hereto.

was filed on June 7, 2000

as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number

PCT/FR00/01554 and was amended on

_____ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.



French Language Declaration

Je revendique par le présent acte avoir la priorité étrangère, en vertu du Titre 35, § 119(a)-(d) ou § 365(b) du Code des Etats-Unis, sur toute demande étrangère de brevet ou certificat d'inventeur ou, en vertu du Titre 35, § 365(a) du même Code, sur toute demande internationale PCT désignant au moins un pays autre que les Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous et, en cochant la case, j'ai aussi indiqué ci-dessous toute demande étrangère de brevet, tout certificat d'inventeur ou toute demande internationale PCT ayant une date de dépôt précédant celle de la demande à propos de laquelle une priorité est revendiquée.

Prior Foreign Application(s)
Demande(s) de brevet antérieure(s) dans un autre pays.

9907188 _____ France _____
(Number) (Country)
(Numéro) (Pays)

Je revendique par le présent acte tout bénéfice, en vertu du Titre 35, § 120 du Code des Etats-Unis, de toute demande de brevet effectuée aux Etats-Unis, ou en vertu du Titre 35, § 365(c) du même Code, de toute demande internationale PCT désignant les Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous et, dans la mesure où l'objet de chacune des revendications de cette demande de brevet n'est pas divulgué dans la demande antérieure américaine ou internationale PCT, en vertu des dispositions du premier paragraphe du Titre 35, § 112 du Code des Etats-Unis, je reconnais devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, § 1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations, dont j'ai pu disposer entre la date de dépôt de la demande antérieure et la date de dépôt de la demande nationale ou internationale PCT de la présente demande:

PCT/FR00/01554 **June 7, 2000**
(Application No.) **(Filing Date)**
(N° de demande) **(Date de dépôt)**

(Application No.) **(Filing Date)**
(N° de demande) **(Date de dépôt)**

Je déclare par le présent acte que toute déclaration ci-incluse est, à ma connaissance, vérifique et que toute déclaration formulée à partir de renseignements ou de suppositions est tenue pour vérifique; et de plus, que toutes ces déclarations ont été formulées en sachant que toute fausse déclaration volontaire ou son équivalent est passible d'une amende ou d'une incarcération, ou des deux, en vertu de la § 1001 du Titre 18 du Code des Etats-Unis, et que de telles déclarations volontairement fausses risquent de compromettre la validité de la demande de brevet ou du brevet délivré à partir de celle-ci.

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

**Priority Claimed
Droit de priorité
Revendiqué**

8 June 1999
(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Anné de dépôt)

Yes No
 Oui Non

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.) (Filing Date)
(N° de demande) (Date de dépôt)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, Insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(Statut : breveté, en cours d'examen, abandonné)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(Statut : breveté, en cours d'examen, abandonné)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

W

French Language Declaration

POUVOIRS: En tant que l'inventeur cité, je désigne par la présente l'(les) avocat(s) suivant(s) pour qu'ils poursuive(nt) la procédure de cette demande de brevet et traite(nt) toute affaire s'y rapportant avec l'Office des brevets et des marques: (mentionner le nom et le numéro d'enregistrement).

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: (list name and registration number)



022850

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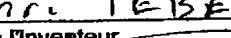
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Nom complet de l'unique ou premier inventeur Henri TEBEKA	Full name of sole or first inventor Henry TEBEKA
Signature de l'inventeur 	Date 29/08/2002
Signature de l'inventeur 	Date 8/29/2002
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